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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 02139 051227 Z

53
ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 GAC-01 SCEM-02 NSF-04

EUR-25 RSR-01 /105 W
---------- 116006
R 051135 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1721
US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 308
INFO USAEC GERMANTOWN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: IAEA, TECH
SUBJ: IAEA REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AT TEHRAN NUCLEAR CENTER

REF: A) U S. MISSION IAEA A-177, B) IAEA VIENNA 2667
Q1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES CONCERN OF US MISSION IAEA ABOUT HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES AT TEHRAN UNIVERSITY NUCLEAR CENTER. IT IS UNFORTUNATE INSPECTION MISSION WAS UNABLE TO EXTEND INSPECTION TO COBALT IRRADIATION AND HIGHBAVOLTATGE ACCELERATOR FACILITIES AT TUNC, WHERE WE SUSPECT SIMILAR PROBLEMS EXIST.

2. SITUATION AT TUNC IS TYPICAL OF PROBLEMS OF IRANIAN RESEARCH FACILITIES, WHERE LACK OF MAINTENANCE AND SPARES ENDEMIC. REACTOR WAS ACQUIRED FOR COSMETIC AS MUCH AS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES AND AS NOTED IN REPORT IS SELDOM OPERATED. MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION DOES NOT TAKE TUNC RESEARCH PROGRAM VERY SERIOUSLY
OR CURRENTLY REGARD IT AS TRAINING FACILITY FOR POWER REACTOR OPERATORS. IF STANDARD IRANIAN PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, KEY OPERATING STAFF WILL BE TRAINED ABROAD AND FOREIGN TECHNICIANS IMPROTED TO TRAIN OTHER STAFF AND ASSURE PROPER OPERATION OF POWER REACTOR.

3. RATHER THAN FORMAL APPROACH TO GOI, WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF IAEA REPORT MUST BE CONCEALED, WE BELIEVE TWO
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OTHER MOVES OFFER SUBSTANTIAL CHANCE OF SUCCESS IN IMPROVING SITUATIO
N
AT TUNC: A) IAEA POWER SURVEY TEAM (REF B) SHOULD BE BRIEFED ON PROBLEM AND REFER TO IT IN ITS REPORT, WHICH IS SURE TO REACH SHAH, IN CONTEXT OF PLANNING AHEAD FOR NEEDS OF NUCLEAR POWER ERA; ANDI) LONG- VACANT UNDP PROGRAM FUNDED POSITION OF REACTOR HEALTH PHYSICS ADVISER AT TUNC WAS FILLED IN NOVEMBER. ADVISER SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO MUCH TO REMEDY SITUATION, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PERSONAL STAMINA AND OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO PERSIST IN STRUGGLE WITH IRANIAN BUREAUCRACY. IAEA SHOULD SUPPLY WHAT MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT T CAN. WE WILL DISCUSS REPORT IN CONFIDENCE WITH UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE (ASSUME HE RECEIVED COPY) AND ASK HIM SUPPORT ADVISER AS NEEDED AND TO USE HIS OWN CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON PARTS OF BUREAUCRACY WHICH CONTROL TUNC FUNDS TO IMPROVE SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE SITUATION.
HELMS

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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